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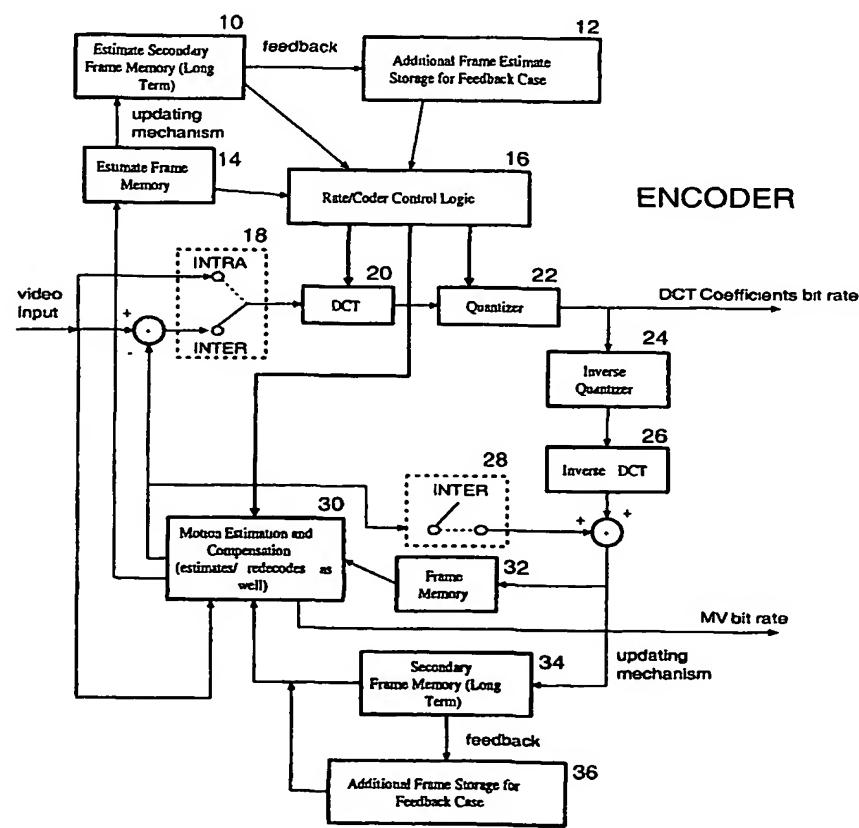
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(54) Title: VIDEO ENCODING METHODS AND DEVICES



(57) Abstract: A dual, and possibly multiple, frame approach is used by the invention (fig.1A). Embodiments of the invention include making a decision (18) to use a long term reference frame, which is a frame other than an immediate past reference frame, to conduct INTER coding, or to conduct INTRA frame coding. Other embodiments include use of long and short term reference blocks (34), and make a decision between two types of INTER coding blocks and INTRA coding (18). In accordance with embodiments of the invention, a long term frame is a high quality frame. The high quality frame may be used as a reference frame under particular conditions.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 375/240.03

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,883,674 A (OGURA) 16 March 1999 (16.03.1999), see fig.1, see col.4, ln.25 to col.8, ln.40	1-30

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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- "Z" document member of the same patent family

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